

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

*Media Office  
Democratic Caucus  
John Schorg, Director  
Statehouse, Room 157  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621  
Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

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### **BAUER CONCERNED AT US DOT'S TIME ZONE RULING**

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana House Democrat Leader B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend) today made the following statement after the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) ruled that St. Joseph County would remain in the Eastern Time Zone:

"The responsibility for today's decision can rest at the feet of several people, starting with State Reps. Steve Heim (R-Culver) and Jackie Walorski (R-Lakeville). If they had followed the wishes of their constituents and voted in committee against the legislation that brought daylight-saving time to Indiana, this matter would have died peacefully and we would not have witnessed the chaos that has taken place in recent months.

"Instead, Rep. Heim followed the wishes of his party bosses and voted in favor of the bill. Rep. Walorski abandoned her responsibility as an elected official and avoided the committee meeting completely.

"No matter what actions they take from this point on to convince their constituents that they have their best interests at heart, Rep. Heim and Rep. Walorski can never escape the fact that they ensured the people of this area will not be able to be in the time zone they wanted.

"We must also remember that Gov. Mitch Daniels went back on the promise he made as a candidate that Indiana would go into the Central Time Zone. Upon taking office, he came down with a case of amnesia, then worked actively against the efforts of the people of St. Joseph County to go on Central Time.

"And what is the result of their handiwork? From this point forward, South Bend and St. Joseph County will be on the same time as Indianapolis and Marion County – which is 140 miles away -- 365 days a year. Throughout that same time, South Bend and St. Joseph County will be an hour ahead of LaPorte – which is less than 30 miles away.

"We will now be on a year-round disconnect from the people in LaPorte, Porter and Lake Counties, as well as Chicago. Thousands of people from our community travel to those areas every day. Those plans now will have to be based on the time difference throughout the year.

"Now that Reps. Heim and Walorski and the governor have turned their backs on the people of St. Joseph County, the only recourse is to take this debate where it should have gone a year ago.

"Indiana House Democrats have called for a statewide referendum to give the people of Indiana a chance to determine whether or not our state should be on Central or Eastern Time. We will actively work for passage of that referendum through the rest of the 2006 legislative session. The people of our area will have a clear picture of who is representing their best interests."

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**This news release can be accessed on the Internet at [www.IN.gov/H06](http://www.IN.gov/H06)**